

REMARKS

Claims 12-33 are pending in the application with claims 12, 19, 26 and 30 being independent claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application in light of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the personal interview conducted on August 17, 2004. During the interview, independent claims 12, 19, 26 and 30 were discussed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 5,805,140 to Rosenberg et al. (“the Rosenberg patent”). The disclosure of the Rosenberg patent was discussed. Applicants discussed the possibility of amending the claims to more clearly define certain aspects of the invention. Agreement was not reached regarding the patentability of the claims. While Applicants have amended the claims in the present application, Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of similar or different scope in future applications.

The Claims are Patentable over the Rosenberg Patent

Claims 12-14, 19, 26-27 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Rosenberg patent. The Rosenberg patent discloses an assembly configured to output feedback to a peripheral device.

Independent Claims 12, 26 and 30 and their Dependent Claims

Independent claims 12, 26 and 30 recite “a dimension-adjusting mechanism configured to adjust the coupling mechanism along a dimension substantially transverse to a direction of movement of the peripheral device when the peripheral device is engaged by the capture mechanism.” During the interview, the Examiner suggested that at least one component of the

device of the Rosenberg patent moved in a vertical direction and thus amounted to adjusting a vertical dimension. Regardless, the device does not “adjust a transverse dimension of a coupling mechanism” as recited in claims 12, 26 and 30. For at least this reason, independent claims 12, 26 and 30 are allowable over the Rosenberg patent. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 12, 26 and 30, dependent claims 13-14, 27 and 31 are also allowable.

Independent Claim 19

Independent claim 19 recites “adjusting a transverse dimension of a coupling mechanism in response to a movement of the peripheral device when engaged by the capture mechanism.” As discussed above, the Rosenberg patent does not disclose “adjusting a transverse dimension of a coupling mechanism” as recited in claim 19. For at least this reason, independent claim 19 is allowable over the cited reference.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 15-18 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rosenberg patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,062,865 to Bailey (“the Bailey patent”). Based at least on their dependence upon independent claims 12 and 19, dependent claims 15-18 and 20-24 are also allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in the application. A statement of reasons for allowable subject matter was set forth by the Examiner. While the Applicants agree that claims 25, 28, 29, 32 and 33 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Examiner’s statement, the Applicants submit that the invention as recited by the claims and as described in the present application is patentable over the art of record for reasons in addition to those listed in the Examiner’s statement. The dependent claims contain

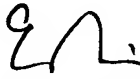
recitations in addition to those stated by the Examiner that provide additional bases for patentability over the art of record. Accordingly, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of different scope than those in the present application. For example, such claims may not necessarily need to include the elements identified in the Examiner's statement.

CONCLUSION

All rejections have been addressed. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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